DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Indiana's rich African American heritage and history, particularly through the Indiana African American Heritage Trail. GROOMS ______, read first time and referred to Committee on



2015 RR 3539/DI lb

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First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1	A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring
2	Indiana's rich African American heritage and history,
3	particularly through the Indiana African American Heritage
4	Trail.
5	Whereas, The state of Indiana is rich in African American
6	heritage and history;
7	Whereas, As a neighbor of Kentucky, early in its history
8	Indiana was a strategic location for runaway slaves seeking
9	freedom and safe passage to the North;
10	Whereas, Popular understanding of Indiana black history
11	normally focuses on post-Civil War African American
12	migration to cities in the North, but fails to reveal this initial
13	history and the stories of free blacks and formerly enslaved
14	people who settled in Indiana even before it was a state;
15	Whereas, These untold stories have the potential to add a
16	level of understanding to our knowledge of black heritage and
17	history;
18	Whereas, Indiana Landmarks, through its African



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1	American Landmarks Committee, has worked for several years
2	to preserve and protect significant African American sites and
3	structures to build on this history and understanding;
4	Whereas, The Indiana Historical Society recently
5	spearheaded a state-wide data collection effort that will
6	provide a comprehensive knowledge base of Indiana's early
7	African American settlers as well, and currently, there are
8	several places where Hoosiers can further their knowledge of
9	our state's African American heritage and history;
10	Whereas, In particular, the Indiana African American
11	Heritage Trail was founded by Maxine F. Brown in 2004, and
12	names those individuals and marks the sites that were
13	instrumental in the history of African Americans in Indiana
14	from the early 1800s to the late 1900s;
15	Whereas, The trail currently runs through Clark, Floyd,
16	Gibson, Harrison, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, with the
17	goal of extending the trail throughout all ninety-two counties in
18	the future to promote cultural heritage tourism;
19	Whereas, African American entrepreneurs can also
20	contribute to a more thorough understanding of black history
21	and heritage in Indiana through the establishment of tourism-
22	related businesses and by promoting cultural heritage tourism;
23	and
24	Whereas, African Americans reflect a legacy of courage
25	and dedication that has helped to guide Indiana's success and
26	prosperity: Therefore,
27	Be it resolved by the Senate of the
28	General Assembly of the State of Indiana:
29	SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes Indiana's rich
30	African American heritage and history, particularly through the Indiana
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- 1 African American Heritage Trail.
- 2 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
- 3 transmit copies of this Resolution to the trail's founder, Maxine F.
- 4 Brown, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southern
- 5 Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc., Gary L. Leavell.



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